

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 TOKYO 12731 220619Z
ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 L-03 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /070 W
-----128027 220624Z /15

R 220515Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 368
INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA AB

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TOKYO 12731

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: ELAB, JA
SUBJECT: SOHYO ANNUAL CONVENTION

SUMMARY: ACTION PROGRAM ADOPTED AT 1977 SOHYO CONVENTION
EMPHASIZES NEED FOR JOB SECURITY RATHER THAN LARGE WAGE GAINS
IN NEW LOW-ECONOMIC-GROWTH AGE; CALLS FOR OPPOSITION PARTY
COALITION TO REPLACE LDP; AND DOWNPLAYS FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES.
POLICY REFLECTS FLEXIBLE NON-DOCTRINAIRE APPROACH OF
MAKIEDA-TOMIZUKA LEADERSHIP TEAM ELECTED LAST YEAR.
END SUMMARY.

1. AT ITS 55TH REGULAR CONVENTION AUG. 17-20, SOHYO ADOPTED
FIRST ACTION PROGRAM PRODUCED UNDER LEADERSHIP OF CHAIRMAN
MOTOFUMI MAKIEDA AND SECGEN MITSUO TOMIZUKA. NEW PLAN
CALLS FOR SHIFT IN STRATEGY FROM SCHEDULED STRIKES FOR
LARGE WAGE BOOSTS TO BROADER POLITICAL-ACTION CAMPAIGN
WITH OTHER LABOR CONFEDERATIONS AND CONSUMER GROUPS TO PROTECT
JOBS, LINK WAGES TO PRICE INCREASES, AND SECURE FURTHER
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 TOKYO 12731 220619Z

TAX REDUCTIONS. PLAN EMPHASIZES NEED TO PRESSURE GOJ
AND DIET TO INCREASE GOVERNMENT SPENDING IN PUBLIC
EMPLOYMENT, AND ESTABLISH MINIMUM WAGE AND FIVE-DAY
WORK WEEK. POLICY ALSO ADVOCATES "TWO-YEAR CONTRACT"
WITH PRIVATE-SECTOR MANAGEMENT WHICH WOULD PROTECT JOBS
BY FORBIDDING LAYOFFS. IN TURN, WHILE REJECTING
PRINCIPLE OF WORKER PARTICIPATION IN MANAGEMENT, PLAN

PLEDGES UNION COOPERATION IN EFFORT TO RESTRUCTURE INDUSTRIES HARDEST HIT BY RECESSION.

2. WHILE MAKIEDA, IN HIS OPENING ADDRESS, RAISED CURRENT DISARRAY IN SOCIALIST PARTY (JSP) AND URGED PARTY TO RECONCILE ITS DIFFERENCES, EXPECTED FLOOR DEBATE ON THIS ISSUE DID NOT DEVELOP. ACTION PROGRAM MAINTAINS TRADITIONAL POLICY OF EXCLUSIVE SUPPORT FOR JSP, BUT FOR FIRST TIME ALSO INCLUDES PROPOSAL TO RESTUDY THIS POLICY DURING COMING YEAR TO PREPARE FOR EVENTUAL OPPOSITION COALITION GOVERNMENT. JCP-AFFILIATED UNIONS MADE USUAL EFFORT FROM FLOOR TO END EXCLUSIVE JSP SUPPORT POLICY BUT WERE DECISIVELY DEFEATED. ON OTHER HAND, SUPPORTERS OF MIDDLE-ROAD COALITION BUILT AROUND JSP AND KOMEITO (CGP) SURPRISINGLY VOCAL. CGP SEC GEN YANO'S LOW-KEY CONGRATULATORY ADDRESS, WHICH CALLED FOR SOHYO TO BROADEN POLITICAL SUPPORT TO INCLUDE CGP BUT NOT JCP, WAS WELL RECEIVED AND SEC GEN OF MODERATE ZENTEI (JAPAN POSTAL WORKERS' UNION) SUGGESTED THAT SOHYO BACK CANDIDATES FIELDLED JOINTLY BY JSP AND CGP IN NEXT ELECTION.

3. CONTINUED TREND OF PAST TWO YEARS, ACTION PROGRAM FURTHER DE-EMPHASIZED INTERNATIONAL ISSUES AND AVOIDED CRITICISM OF U.S. WHEN QUESTIONED BY DELEGATE AS TO WHY LONG-STANDING SLOGAN CALLING FOR ABROGATION OF US-JAPAN SECURITY TREATY HAD BEEN FURTHER SOFTENED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 TOKYO 12731 220619Z

THIS YEAR, SEC GEN TOMIZUKA REPLIED THAT, WHILE SOHYO STILL OFFICIALLY OPPOSED TO TREATY, QUESTION BEING DOWNPLAYED IN ORDER FACILITATE COOPERATION WITH OTHER LABOR FEDERATIONS AND OPPOSITION POLITICAL GROUPS ON OTHER ISSUES. ACTION PLAN ALSO INCLUDES PROPOSAL TO INVITE U.S. LABOR UNION REPRESENTATIVE TO JAPAN DURING COMING YEAR FOR "EXCHANGE OF VIEWS." EVEN THOUGH SOME DELEGATES, PARTICULARLY FROM POSTAL AND COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS, EXPRESSED REGRET OVER POSSIBLE U.S. WITHDRAWAL FROM ILO AND CRITICIZED SOHYO LEADERSHIP FOR FAILING TO COMMUNICATE DIRECTLY WITH AFL-CIO ON THIS ISSUE, CONVENTION TOOK NO ACTION ON QUESTION.

4. ALTHOUGH SOHYO MOOD MUCH BETTER THIS YEAR THAN LAST (WHEN IT APPEARED ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO RECRUIT NEW CHAIRMAN), JAPAN'S LARGEST LABOR CONFEDERATION STILL APPEARS UNCERTAIN ABOUT ITS FUTURE ROLE. TOMIZUKA ADMITTED ON FINAL DAY THAT LEADERSHIP IS "GROPEING" FOR NEW APPROACHES TO STAGNATING ECONOMY AND INTERNAL WARFARE IN JSP. LEADERSHIP'S WILLINGNESS TO "RE-EXAMINE" DURING COMING YEAR SOHYO'S TRADITIONAL EXCLUSIVE SUPPORT OF JSP APPEARS TO BE STRATEGY TO

HOLD LINE AGAINST SUPPORTES OF BOTH MODERATE OPPOSITION PARTIES AND JCP IN HOPE JSP WILL SOLVE ITS PROBLEMS IN INTERIM. NEW ACTION PROGRAM, DESPITE GREATER MODERATION ON POLITICAL ISSUES, SEEMS TO OFFER LITTLE TO PRIVATE-SECTOR UNIONS WHO, WITH EXCEPTION OF VOLUBLE GOKAROREN (CHEMICAL WORKERS) CHAIRMAN OTA, CONTINUED RECENT PRACTICE OF SILENT PARTICIPATION AT CONVENTION, DRAMATIZING THAT SOHYO NOW SPEAKS ONLY FOR PUBLIC SECTOR.

6. IN SUM, WHILE THIS YEAR'S ACTION PROGRAM, IN COMPARISON TO PAST ONES, CONTAINED SUBSTANTIALLY LESS IDEOLOGICAL RHETORIC, IT IS VAGUE TO THE POINT OF MEANINGLESSNESS ON PRACTICAL ISSUES, SUCH AS UNIFYING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 TOKYO 12731 220619Z

FRAGMENTED TRADE-UNION MOVEMENT AND ORGANIZING VIABLE OPPOSITION TO LDP. LEADERSHIP COMMITTED TO CREATE A MORE MODERATE IDENTITY FOR SOHYO, BUT ITS ROOM TO MANEUVER ON MANY ISSUES THAT COUNT APPEARS LIMITED. MANSFIELD

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETINGS, LABOR UNIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 22-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977TOKYO12731
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770302-0295
Format: TEL
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770836/aaaabdyb.tel
Line Count: 141
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f50e6956-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1523551
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOHYO ANNUAL CONVENTION SUMMARY: ACTION PROGRAM ADOPTED AT 1977 SOHYO CONVENTION EMPHASIZES NEED FOR JOB SECURITY RATHER THAN LARGE
TAGS: ELAB, JA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f50e6956-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009